

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of March 22, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9. Applicant adds claims 10-16. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments in claim 3, this rejection is now believed to be moot in view of claim 3's cancellation.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,184); rejected claims 1, 3-5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,667,854); rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Yamada et al.; rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Scheuble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,308,535); rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Hanmer et al. (WO 98/00475 A1); rejected claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Yamada et al., in further view of Scheuble et al.; rejected claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chung et al. in view of Yamada et al., in further view of Hanmer et al.; rejected claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Scheuble et al.; rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Hanmer et al. Applicant believes these rejections are moot in view of claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 being cancelled by this Amendment.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,



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